

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09474 01 OF 02 241156Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----099522 241257Z /50

R 241137Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8829
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09474

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, BQG, GW
SUBJECT: SCHMIDT'S STATEMENT TO BREZHNEV ON GERMAN
INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) BONN 8564 (B) BONN 8990
(C) BONN 9248 (D) BONN 9188

BEGIN SUMMARY

IT NOW IS CLEAR THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, DURING ONE OF HIS MEETINGS WITH BREZHNEV, MADE A STATEMENT OF INTENT AGAINST THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FRG INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN. THIS ISSUE HAD BEEN UNCLEAR, AND WE HAD RECEIVED CONTRARY REPORTS AS TO WHETHER OR NOT SCHMIDT HAD MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENT WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF A DISCUSSION IN WHICH THE GERMANS SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR RESTRAINT ON

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BOTH SIDES. END SUMMARY

1. AT OUR REQUEST, FRG BONN GROUP REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) HAS RECHECKED THE REPORT OF THE BREZHNEV/SCHMIDT CONVERSATIONS IN BONN AND HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE CHANCELLOR SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT THE FRG HAS "NO INTENTION" OF ESTABLISHING NEW FRG "INSTITUTIONS" IN

BERLIN (REF A, PARA 4). WE REGARD THIS AS ONE OF THE MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECTS OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT SINCE THE QUESTION OF FRG INSTITUTIONS IN BERLIN HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN ONE OF THE MOST NEURALGIC POINTS FOR THE SOVIETS. THIS STATEMENT GOES BEYOND ANYTHING THE FRG HAS BEEN PREPARED TO SAY, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY.

2. VON BRAUNMUEHL DID NOT MENTION THE STATEMENT IN THE INITIAL BRIEFING (REF B) OF THE BONN GROUP ON THE BERLIN ASPECTS OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT AND, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US BONN GROUP REP, FIRST SAID THAT THE STATEMENT SURPRISED HIM. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE STATEMENT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN COORDINATED BY SCHMIDT WITH GENSCHER IN ADVANCE. IN THE MEANTIME HE HAS MENTIONED IT TWICE IN PASSING IN THE BONN GROUP, WITHOUT LAYING GREAT EMPHASIS ON IT, AND HAS NOW TOLD THE US REP THAT OTHER SIGNS INDICATE THAT THE STATEMENT HAD PROBABLY BEEN COORDINATED BY SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER IN ADVANCE.

3. AS EVIDENCE OF THIS, HE SAID THAT WHEN GENSCHER LEARNED ABOUT THE PLANNED OPENING OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) IN BERLIN ON JUNE 1 (REF B), HE BECAME QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE ON THE SOVIETS IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT HE MENTIONED TO GROMYKO THOSE UPCOMING EVENTS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE PROBLEMS (PARA 3 OF REF C) BUT HAD NOT MENTIONED

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THE EPO OPENING SINCE HE WAS NOT AWARE IT WAS TO BE OPENED SO SOON. AS A RESULT, GENSCHER DIRECTED THAT PUBLICITY MUST BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

4. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THAT THE FRG IS ADOPTING A CONSCIOUS POLICY OF SEEKING TO AVOID GIVING THE SOVIETS CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT OVER BERLIN IN ORDER TO TEST WHETHER THIS POLICY OF INCREASED SELF-RESTRAINT WILL, AS THE FRG HOPES, RESULT IN A MORE CONCILIATORY SOVIET ATTITUDE. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THE STATEMENT THAT THE FRG HAS "NO INTENTION" OF ESTABLISHING NEW OFFICES DOES NOT MEAN THAT THIS IS A COMMITMENT FOR ALL TIME TO COME.

5. THIS POINT WAS ALSO STRESSED BY WILHELM LUECKING, THE CHIEF OF THE BERLIN, SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR. LUECKING SAID THE GERMANS HAD DECIDED TO MAKE THIS STATEMENT OF INTENT

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-----099591 241258Z /50

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 09474

EXDIS

BECAUSE THEY WISHED TO PARALLEL THE COMMITMENT MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1974 TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ALLIES WOULD, WHEN CONSIDERING POSSIBLE NEW FRG OFFICES IN BERLIN, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY THE LEGALITY OF SUCH A MOVE BUT ALSO THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL OPPORTUNENESS LUECKING SAID THAT THE GERMANS HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT THEY HAD NEVER BEEN ON RECORD AS HAVING MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION, THUS PERHAPS GIVING THE SOVIETS A LEGITIMATE CLAIM THAT THE GERMAN POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A SENIOR ALLY.

6. LUECKING SAID THE STATEMENT ALSO HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF THE GENERAL PRESENTATION IN WHICH IT TOOK PLACE. IN THAT PRESENTATION, SCHMIDT TOLD BREZHNEV THAT THE FRG WOULD CONTINUE TO ADHERE TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THAT AGREEMENT, THE FRG WOULD MAINTAIN ITS TIES WITH BERLIN. IN THAT CONTEXT, SCHMIDT NOTED
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THAT THE FRG DID NOT WISH A CRISIS OVER BERLIN AND
WOULD ACT WITH RESTRAINT, INCLUDING ITS INTENT TO
LOCATE NO NEW FRG OFFICES IN BERLIN. SCHMIDT ADDED,
LUECKING OBSERVED, THAT THE FRG WOULD ANTICIPATE SIMI-
LAR RESTRAINT BY THE SOVIETS (AND, IMPLICITLY, THE
EAST GERMAN SIDE). LIKE VON BRAUNMUEHL, LUECKING SAID
THAT THE FRG WOULD FEEL FREE TO REVIEW THIS INTENT IF,
FOR EXAMPLE, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR DID NOT SHOW
RESTRAINT.
STOESSEL

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